

JAMES V. ALLRED GOVERNOR



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT AUSTIN, TEXAS December 26, 1937

DERO D. COWLEY
SECRETARY TO GOVERNOR
GEORGE CLARKE

GEORGE CLARKE
ALMA ALBERT
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES

Hon. E. E. Townsend Alpine Texas

Dear Mr. Townsend:

Under separate cover I am sending for your personal use several dozen splendid pictures of the Big Bend area recently taken at my direction from the air by the air corp of our Texas National Guard.

I think the pictures are unusually good. Some of them are being rum in the San Antonio Light, but they can't show up as well in the newspaper as they do in the photograph.

Since you are the real "Daddie" of the Big Bend idea, I think it only fitting you should have these pictures.

With highest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Governor of Texas



Honorable James V. Allred, Governor of Texas, Austin, Texas,

My Dear Governor: -

There just returned from a holiday trip to South Texas and found your letter of the 26th, of December together with the pictures of the Big Bend area. I thank you most earnestly for your thoughtful kindness in remembering me with these incomparable pictures. They are the finest that I have ever seen of the park region.

It has been my pleasure to give away humdreds of dollars worth of pictures in trying to sell
the Big Bend proposition to the people Texas, but
these, coming from you are mine and I will keep every
one of them. I shall have them mounted in a scrap
book with your letter on the front page and keep them
for my grandson, Philip Mownsend Hudgins.

again thanking you and congratulating you on winning Pike's Peak, I am.

Sincerely yours.

E. E. Townsend.



(oi)

Chisos Mountains;

Oak Canyon left fore ground.

CCC Camp and road at foot of

Casa Grance, at left. Emory

Peak upper center.

us

The Sky-line carries/to the Del Carmen and Fronterrizas beyond the Rio Grande.



Chisos Mountains;
Tost Mine, Grown, Casa Grande
and Emory. Basin in center,
see site for Hotel etc. West
view of Window.
Del Carmen and Fronterrizas

to the rear.



(03)

Chisos Mountains;

Oak Canyon and part of Basin, with Hotel site and road exposed.

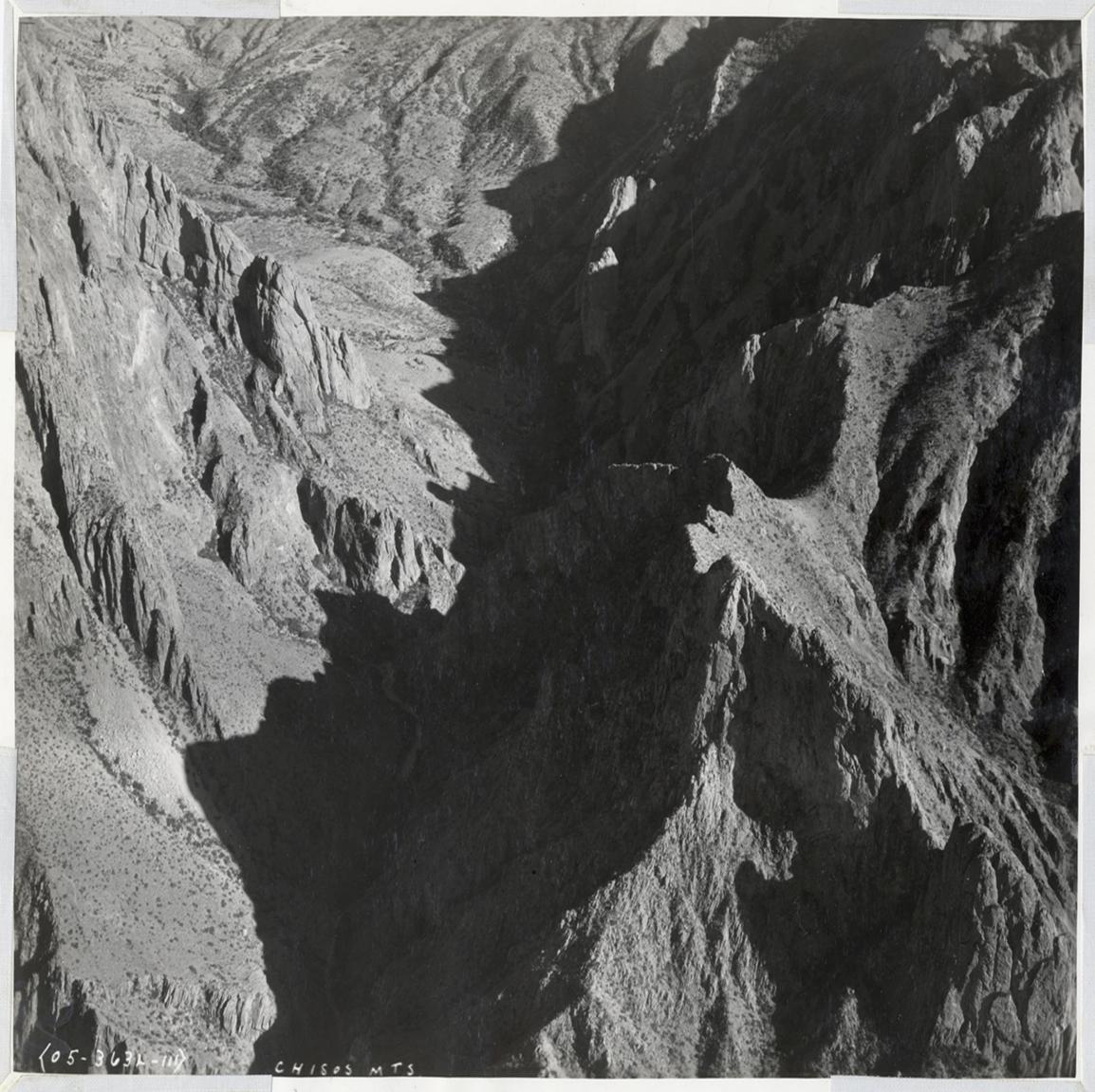


(04)

Chisos mountains;

North end, near Pulliam's Bluff.

Burnham's Ranch, extreme upper right.



(05)

Over the Window.

CCC Camp upper left.



(06)

Emory Peak,

Cat-Tail Canyon

right fore groun



Emory Peak.

Hotel site to left

in Basin.



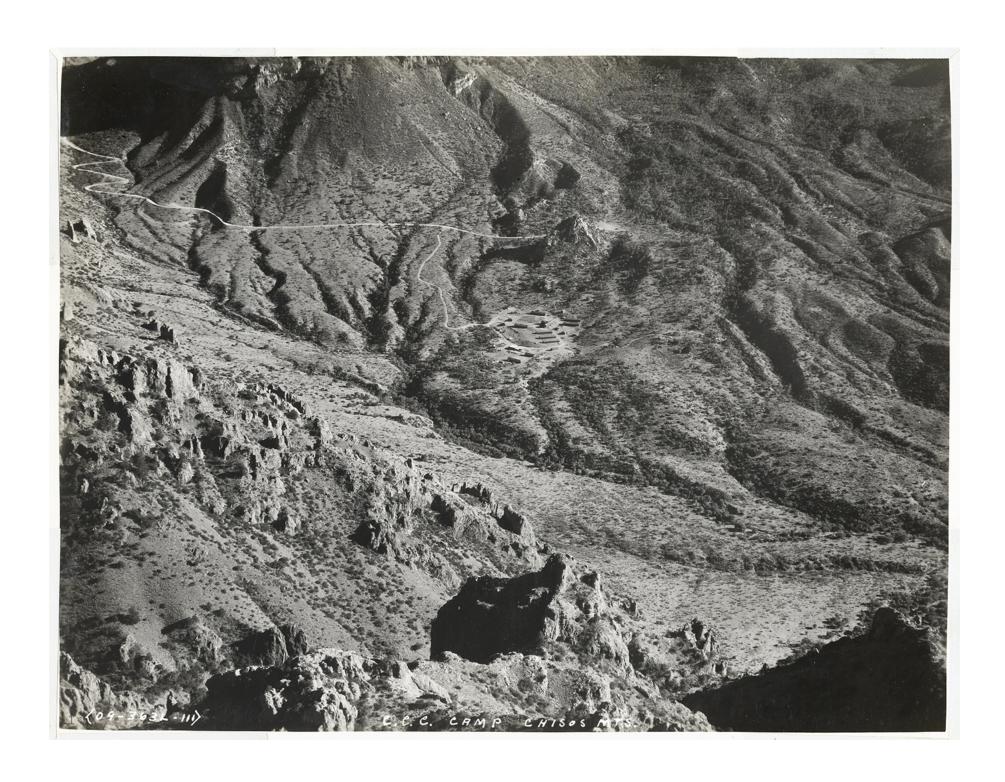
(08)

Casa Grande,

CCC Road,

and Camp.

Emory upper right.



CCC Camp,

in Basin.

in the canyon among the trees dug by E.E.Townsend, M.T.McChure, and a bunch of reliaf Mexicans in the spring of 1934, for the purpose of establishing the CCC Camp. First water found at seven and one half feet. For Three days Mrs. E. E. Townsend, cooked for the entire outfit, on a campfire in the hot sun.



(010)

CCC Camp in Basin,

Site for Hotel etc.,

Casa Grande,

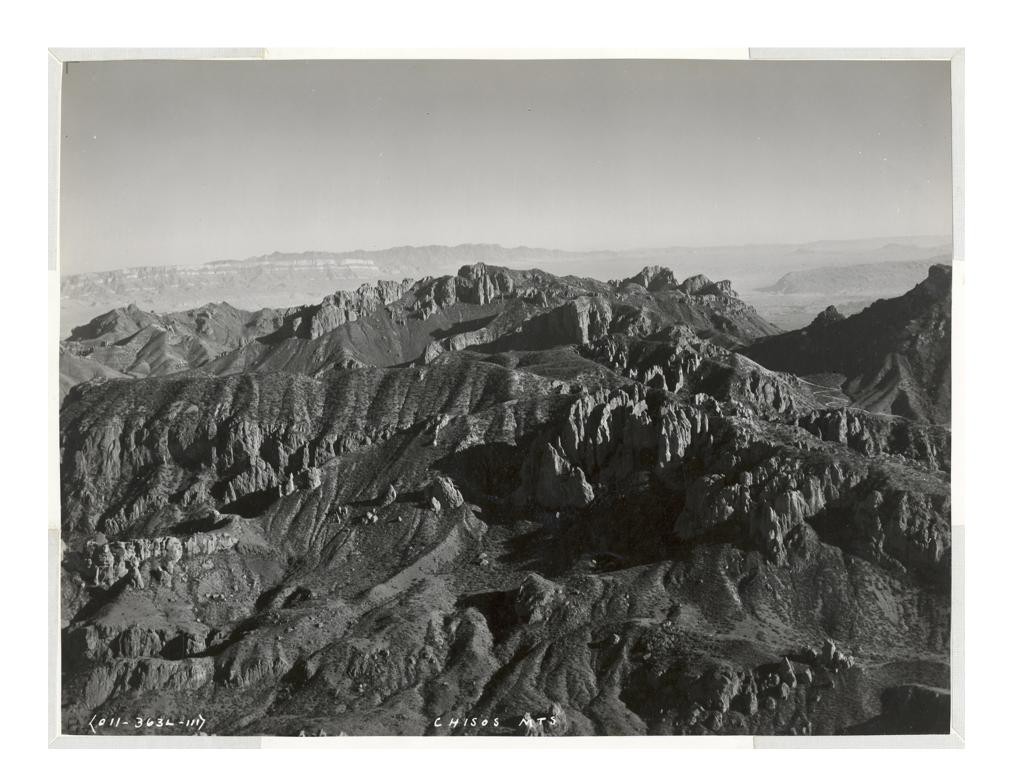
The Saddle,

Chinese Wall.

San Vicente,

San Jose de

las Piedras and other far away mountains in Mexico.



(OII)

Fommel, Lost Mine,
Crown, Chinese Wall, and
Saddle of the Chisos
Mountains.
Del Carmen, Fronterrizas,
Mesa de los Fresnos,
San Jose de las Piedras,
and San Vicente Mountains
in Mexico.



(012)

Fore Ground
State Highway # 227, and
Alamo Creek.

Rough Run and on beyond we find Christmas, Corozonas, Nine Points, Santiago, Elephant, Cathedral and various other peaks and mountains of central and

northern Brewster County.

Center



(OI3)

Fore Ground
Burro Mesa, and State
Highway # 227.

Center

Rough Run Arroyo and farther
to the northwest can be seen
Egg Shell, Agua Fria, Green
Valley, Pack-saddle, San
Jacinto, and other well
known land marks in Presidio
County.

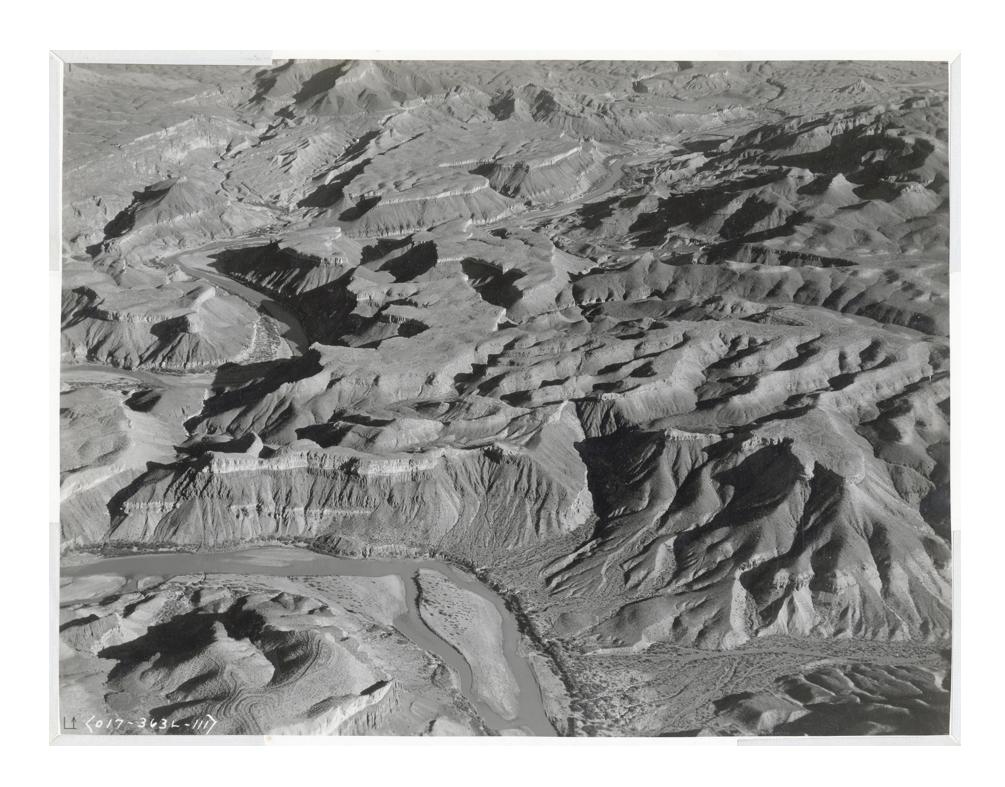


Continued ---

Begining on the left skyline we find Dead-Horse
Mountains, followed by the
Chisos and the lower Chisos
or Picachos, which abut on
the River above Mariscal
Mountain, which can also
be seen.

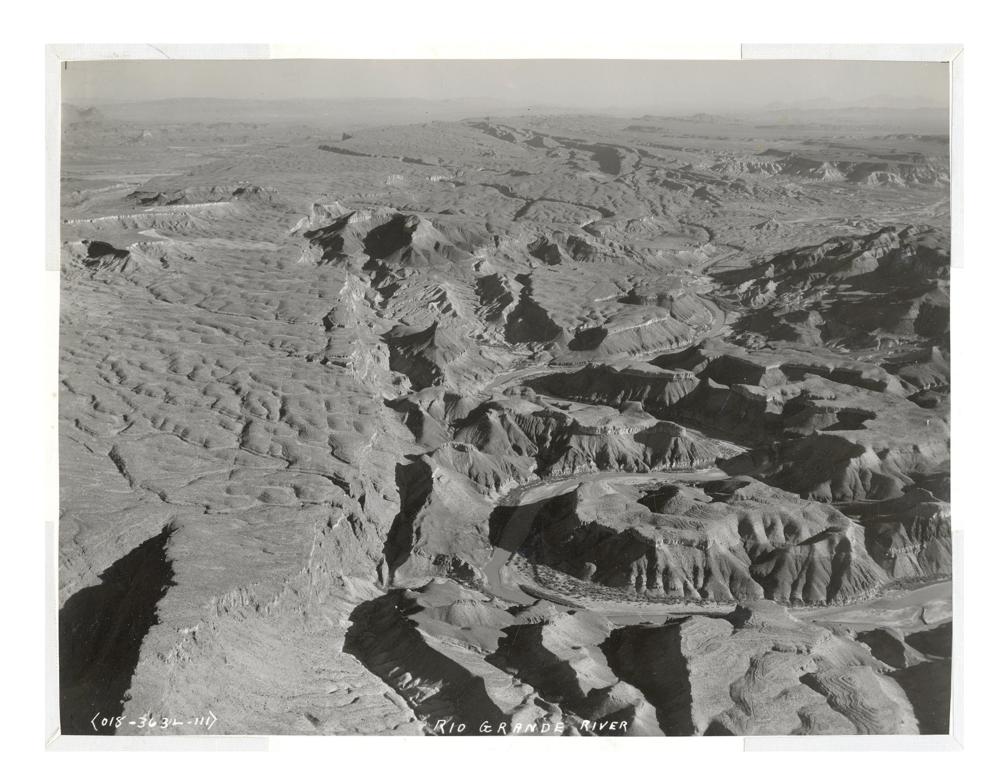
In the central back are the richly painted cliffs of the Del Carmen and the dark forest clad heights of the Fronterrizas. The last named are variously estimated to reach altitudes of 10,000 to 12,000 feet above sea level, exceeding alls others within the International Park area.

Straight away, they are 75 miles from the camera.



(017)

Santa Helena Canyon, immediately above and before entering the Box.



(₀I₈)

Santa Helena Canyon.

Castillon P mis-spelled

Castolon) Peak.



(OI9)

Rio Grande.

OI9 - Above Lajitas - looking up the Rio Grande.
Skyline - Mts in Mex. west of Presidio. Dark peak, center- just below skyline, is probably Sierra de de Panta Cruz, just below Ojinaga, Chihuahua. Prominent rim rock facing leftnear upper center is a few miles below Polyo. Edge of Chinati Mts. in extreme upper Right



(020)

Rio Grande.

020 - Pretty much the same as 019, except this shows the Chinati and Bofecillo mountains in more detail

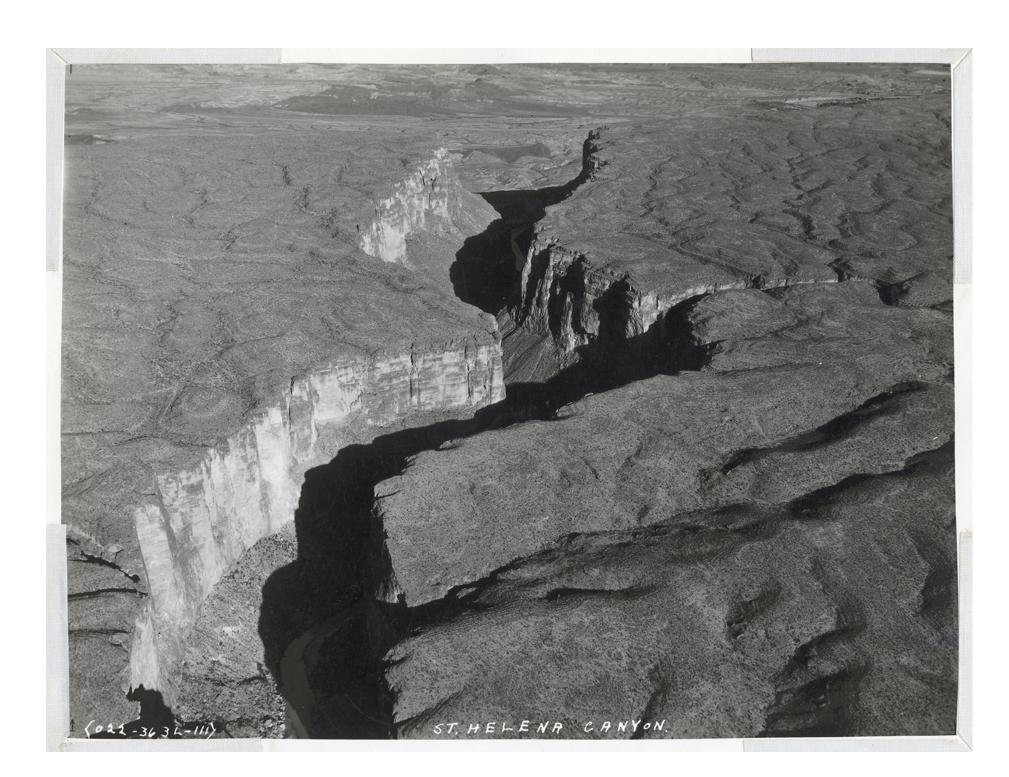


(120)

Santa Helena Canyon,

looking down stream.

Texas left - Mexico right.



(022)

Santa Helena Canyon,

looking down stream.

Texas left - Mexico right.



(023)

Santa Helena Canyon,

looking down stream.

Texas left - Mexico right.



Santa Helena Canyon,

looking up stream.

Mexico left - Texas right.

In I860, Lt. Echols, U. S.
Army, commanding an Expedition
to test fitness of camels for
this region, to trace Comanche
War Trail, and to locate
suitable site for army Post,
adjacent said Trail, visited
this place. He called it

"Grand Puerta".

He found desirable site a few miles down River.

He had 20 camels, many mules, and about 50 men.



Santa Helena Canyon,

looking up stream.

Mexico left - Texas right.

My first visit here, one hot afternoon, in May 1895. We

took a bath in the cool shade

a la "nude", the first in

many days.

At that time wheeled vehicles had not violated the virginity of its sacred precincts.



Emory Peak and South Rim, Elephant's Tusk, in front.

Elevation Elephant's Tusk 5200 feet above sea level. South Rim 7000 feet. Once upon a time, a Texas Ranger "accidently" killed a fleeing bandit near the foot of Elphant's Tusk. In the investigation the coronor stated that in his opinion the bullet first struck a stone, ricochetted and hit the "hombre". The Ranger/"Hell no. It hit a rock, glanced and killed him." He feared that big word was some sort of inerimination.



(027)

Emory Peak and South Rim.

Elephant's Tusk.



(820)

Chisos Mountains and approaches from South-west.

Christmas Mountains in upper left.



(029)

Mule Ears, to left.

Upper sky-line,

Agua Fria and

Egg Shell.

Right,

Christmas Mountains.



(030)

Mule Ears again.

Straight beyond on horizon,

Agua Fria,

Egg Shell, and

Pack-Saddle.



Lower Chisos, sometimes called
Picaches by local Mexicans,
taken from Landing Field at
Johnson's Ranch.
Nugent Peak and other southeastern elevations of the
Chisos showing on the right.



(032)

"Picachos", from near

Johnson's Ranch and the

Southeastern escarpment of the

Chisos Mountains.



(033)

Clouds covering most of the Chisos.

Emory partly visable.

East point of Picachos - lower

left and

Elephant's Tusk, right center.



(034)

Here,

Emory has raised his cap.

"Picachos" to left center.

See fence line or road lower

right.



Boquillas, the twin villages, -two "Small Mouths", one in Texas and one in Mexico. Here. once upon a time, I accepted the hospitalities of the Mexican Quartel, which was extended over the muzzles of army rifles. Left center the meandering Rio Bravo disappears into the upper end of Dead Horse Canyon. The painted cliffs of Del Carmen stretch across the sky as Borrego Peak takes a drink from the moisture laden cloud. Near the center, a white spot centered with a smaller black one, indicates the Mexican "Terminal" of the aerial cable, which at one time delivered buckets of ore over its seven miles length to the Texas side. Old Mexican Aduana on small Mesa above the canyon entrance.



(037)

Rio Bravo.

No lo conozco.



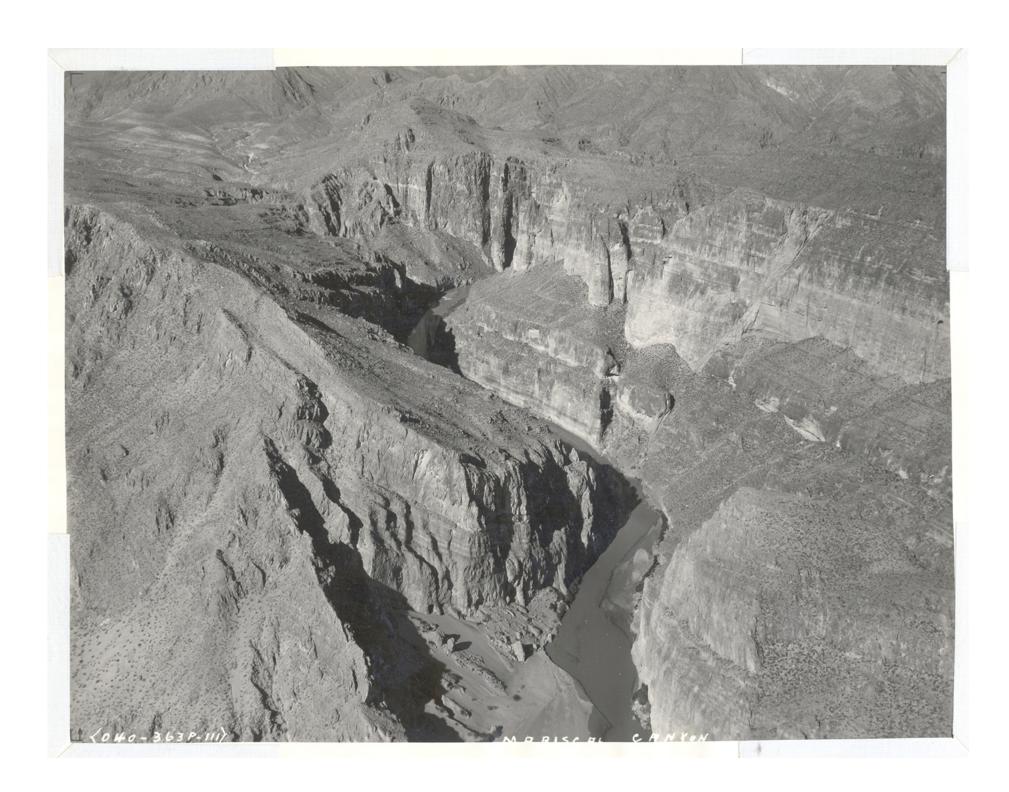
(038)

Close up - Boquillas, Coahuila, where I visited the "Quartel" in the days of Revolution.

See the "Arenales". Geology - exemplified -- white sands covering high rocky ridges, wind swept from arroyos and the River's bed.



Another view of my "jail" town, looking south. A little tip of Del Carmen can be seen in extrem upper left and beyond it the Fronterrizas. To the right of center on sky-line - San Jose de las Piedras, though 40 miles away, is plainly visable. It is one of the Peaks to which which is directed the boundary lines of the Mexican Park area. Legends tell of the ghostly horsemen who gallop around its bouldered base when certain phases of the moon tempt the uneasy spirits, to feats of horsemanship.



(040)

Dead Horse, or Boquillas Canyon.

Because of historical significance, let us forever call it

"Dead Horse".



(04I)

Dead Horse Canyon, see it
meandering from right to left.

Del Carmen and tips of the
Fronterrizas showing above.



(042)

Dead Horse Canyon and the Del Carmen.

Borrego Peak on center sky-line.



(043)

Dead Horse Canyon.

Del Carmen.



(044)

Dead Horse Canyon,

Del Carmen.

San Jose de las

Piedras, again appears on the distant sky-line, near center.



(045)

Del Carmen, morth part as it approaches the Rio Grande.

Borrego Peak punching a hole in the sky.



(046)

Lower

Dead Horse Canyon.

046 - Mexico in foreground. Looking down Rio G. and over the Ladrones Vega. Bullis Gap in upper Right.



(047)

Lower

Dead Horse Canyon, .

047 - Foreground - Mexico. Looking down Rio G. over La Vega de las Ladrones - just below the mouth of the Maravillas Crk. Maravillas Canyon middle left. Dove Mt. Center, above it Yellow House Peak and Emel's Hump.



(048)

Bend of the

Rio Grande.

048 - Foreground - Mexico and Rio Grande. Maravillas entering Rio G.
Maravillas Creek anyon upper center Upper Left - Dog Canton. Cloud on covers Santiago Peak. Then comes/Sky Cathedral of Haley's Peak, followed b by Davis Mts. Mt. Ord, Altuda Pass, and Glass Mts.



(051)

Fronterrizas are peeping just above the Del Carmen.

A bend of the Dead Horse in fore ground.



Another view of cloud capped

Del Carmen.

Below the center and a little to the right, we again find the Mexican "Terminal" of the aerial. Notice the foot and burro trails leading to it from below. Leading upwards from it towards the great sierra can be seen the road, over which ores were hauled from the mines to the Terminal. Borrego Peak still on the sky-line.



A closer up of the twin
Boquillas and the meanderings
of the Bravo before it enters
Dead Horse Canyon.

Doubtless the Dead Horse adventure, the killing of captured Indian horses, (I/I6/1882) by Texas Rangers, who were descending the River in boats, occurred somewhere within the scope of this picture.

As now remembered the
Ranger party consisted of the
following members of Company
"E" Frontier Battallion, viz;
C. L. Nevill, Captain,
Joe B. Irving,
J. M. Sedberry,
Charley Eans,

and the egro cook.



Here the Brave ate its
way around the northern base
of San Vicente Mountain, forming one of our small, but attractive canyons, the Little
San Vicente, about 800 feet in
depth.

Here, I rescued the carcass of old Bill Harris, after
it had been in the chilly
waters for I7 days. It had
wounds in one arm and evidently shot in the ribs. A
fifty pound stone was tied to
its neck.

Mission San Vicente, established early part 18th, century is to right of and a little beyond timber point where it extends fartherest south -right. Sky-line,

Del Carmen.



Mariscal Canyon, walls 1400 feet, straight up and down. Most southern reach of the Brave in the Big Bend, North Lat. approximately 28 59'. While it cut through the Mariscal, it did not conquor the next impediments, San Vicente and Del Carmen. (both seen in picture) whose massive and gran ate like walls forced it to the far North. Here, it flows almost due East. but upon app proaching San Vicente (upper center) is turned around the northern end of that uplift and again tries for a southward course, but again, it is forced northward by the sturdy walls of Del Carmen - central skyline. Centinela Peak - another Mexican Park boundry marker, in upper right.



Mariscal Canyon. Where the River conquored the mountains and the mountains conquored the River. Mariscal lost its battle against the raging waters. San Vicente, lower upper, and Del Carmen. upper right, retreated it one hundred miles to the North.

Comanche Pass, center sky-line, between Del Carmen and Fronterizas, is a tough and hazzardous Trail. Centinela Peak, near northern end of Fronterrizas.



(060)

Los Chisos

from the South.

In line, Elephant's Tusk,
5200 feet; South Rim, 7000
feet; and Emory Feak 7835
feet, in elevation.

Los Picachos left, and above them, Agua Fria, Egg Shell,
Pack-Saddle, and other distant landmarks in Brewster and Presidio Counties.



(061)

Formations southwest of the Chisos

Emory and South Rim, upper right.

Again, Pack-Saddle, Egg Shell, Agua Fria, Maverick, Saw Mill and others.



(062)

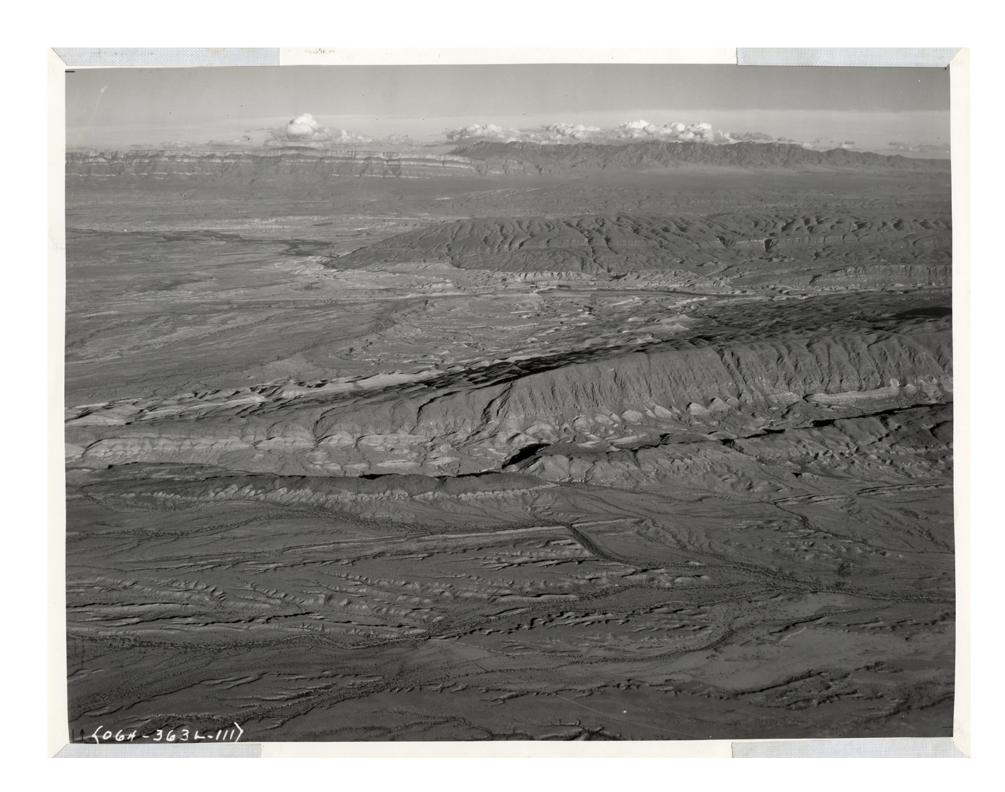
Los Chisos.

Cow-heaven. Elephant's Tusk, Emory, and the Pack-Saddle region.



Los Picachos, Castillon,
Mule Ears, Terlingua Basin,
on up to Agua Fria and beyond.

Peaks showing in center;
begining on left, Castillon,
Bee (?), Mule Ears, Trap,
Kit, and Goat. Ratthesnake
shows dimly beyond Trap.



North end of Mariscal Mt., i in senter. The Canyon is several miles to right of picture. The Bravo can be seen as it drifts along the west side of San Vicente and circles its northern point, turning South again and actually flowing along its eastern base for a short dis tance, before setting off towards its next barrier, Del Carmen. On the sky-line, Del Carmen, Comanche Pass, and Fronetriza's mothering clouds, seldom absent, which doubtless sustains its rich vegitation.



(065)

Emory, South Rim, and other eastern points of the Chisos Mountains covered with the life sustaining clouds.

The evil of overstocking and "Erosion's toll is well recorded here.



(066)

Emory Peak, South Rim.

Over to the left appears

Christmas Mountains, Cora
zonas, and Nine Paints.

Evening shadows darken the

eastern slapes.



(067)

Blue Creek, South Rim, Emory, Casa Grande, and many other friends in the Chisos. Rosillas 'neath the dampening clouds.



Pulliam's Bluff, Lost Mine, and Panther Peak. Paint Mountain in the valley. In the upper left; a long ridge, a peak, followed by another bulky ridge, compose the Corazonas. At the near foot of the last, I rescued another dead man -Roy Williams - from a watery grave - this time from the bottom of a thirty foot well, covered with fifteen feet of water. Higher and to the right, Nine Points, and farther on Santiago Peak - in the clouds. Rossillas to right.



(069)

Lost Mine, Pulliam's Bluff, Paint Mountain, Christmas, Corazonas, and Nine Points.



(070)

Crown, Lost Mine, Panther, and Lone Mountain.



Flying HIGH, Emory is almost under us. Casa Grande is the little mountain on the right with a big shadow. Basin left front, with CCC Camp hidden in the sharp point of the shadow beyond the small round peak.

Left center, Paint Mountain, in valley. On extreme right the white sided mound is Lone Mountain. The highway can be seen circling from this point, via Burnham's Ranch and into the dark shadows of Green Gulch.



(073)

Lower right, exit of Oak
Canyon. The Sam Nail Ranch
is somewhere in the shadow of
Burro Mesa, at the lower left.
Christmas dominates the center, with Corazonas and Nine
Points to the right. Croton
Agua Fria, Egg Shell, and
others to left.



(074)

Burro Mesa in front. Maverick,
Bee, Cigar, and Saw Mill
Mountains towards the left.
The hazy sheen hides the
little village of Terlingua
in the extreme left.
Agua Fria, Egg Shell, PackSaddle, and Green Valley,
upper right.



(075)

Close up of Emory and the South Rim.



(076)

Blue Creek. At the sharp curve in the road, Alice scraped the fender and stalled Lutie's car.

Emory and South Rim, upper right.



(077)

Blue Creek.

The shapp curve of the road is still in sight.

I killed a three point flagtail buck, just below the fringe of trees at the foot of the lowest central cliff. As usual we find Emory on Top.



(078)

West side of the Chisos.

A glimpse of the road winding up Blue Creek, in lower
right.



(079)

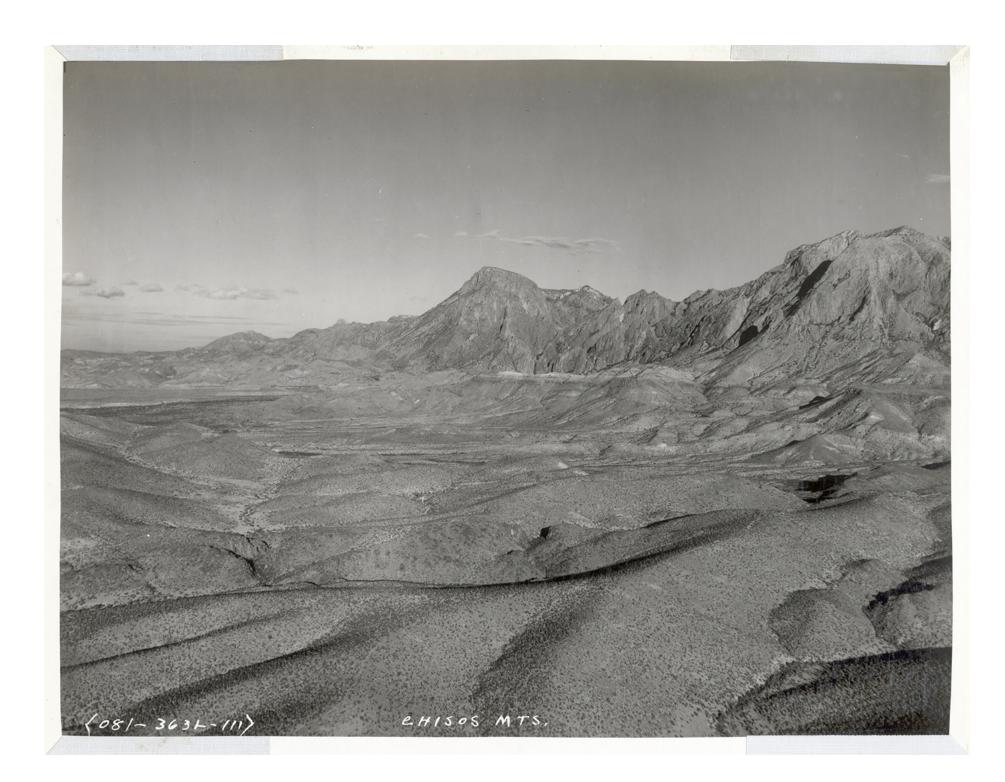
West side, again. Ward

Spring about the center.



(080)

Chisos' western slope.



(08I)

Chisos' western slope. Oak
Canyon breaks through at
the depression between the
higher points/



(083)

Los Chisos.

The mule Ears too, in more than forty years acquaintance I've never seen 'em wiggle.



(084)

Los Chisos.

Well, just look at 'em from the west.

Upper left, south end of Goat Mountain.



(085)

Near Castolon.

First Peak on right is north end of Goat Mauntain; next towards the left is Trap, and the long low one still farther to the left is Kit Mountain.



(086)

A friend once said.

"They are so damned ughly that they are pretty".

Near the Terlingua Creek.

Agua Fria and Egg Shell on northern horizon.

Wit Mountain, near right.

"Bee"(?) so called, the

dark and prominent Peak

in left center.



(087)

Rio Bravo in fore ground, beyond it the road between
Johnson's and Castolon.
Center, Castillon Peak, Trap,
Kit, Christmas, and Goat Mts.
latter on extreme right.
Left and center, back,
Saw-Mill, Agua Fria, Egg, and
Pack-Saddle.



(088)

of Santa Helena Mesa, in Mexico some miles south of the Canyon, showing the top of a smaller canyon.

Left center sky-line, Los Picachos, or lower Chisos

Mountains. Cloud banked sky-line is over the Fronterizas.



(089)

Chisos and Picachos on skyline. The camera looking southeastward. Mule Ears almost in center.



(090)

Taken from almost the same position as No 089, but looking to the northeastward. Chisos on right sky-line and probably Burro Mesa on left.



(09I)

Castillon Peak, Trap, and
Christmas in center and
farther back.

Egg and Pack-Saddle, extreme
left on horizon.



Bravo in front. Castolon in center he The buildings were erected by the government for an army post, about 1920-21. This site or one very near it was chosen and recommended by Lt. Echols, in 1860 for that purpose, while on one of his camel expeditions. It was called Santa Helena Post. and was used by the army for a short time only, probably less than one year, after erection of buildings. Long white strip in center, is an abandoned dry land farm, beyond it, the Rattle Snake Mts. Left sky-line, Terlingua Hills, followed by Saw-Mill, Agua Fria, Egg, and Pack-Saddle. Near the light lower edge of picture, is ojitos. It is the small white spot in the central of three little canyons among the hills, and on the road leading down river from Castolon. When I first rode here in 1895, we found some Mexican families living in jacalitos, the only human abobes within many miles.

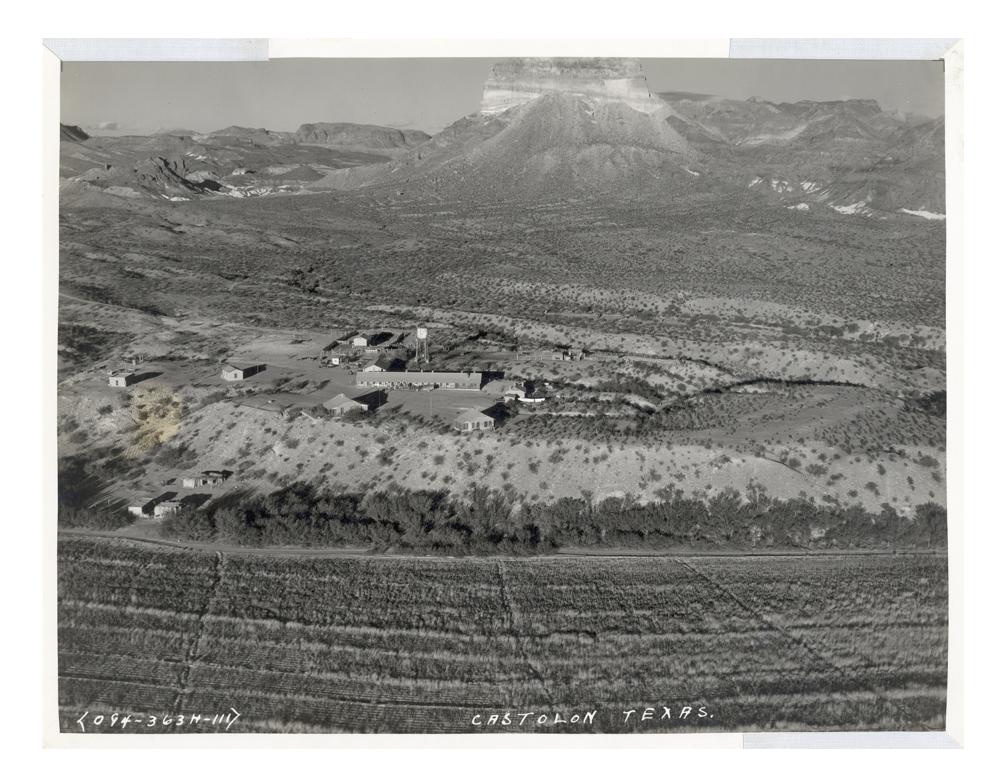


(093)

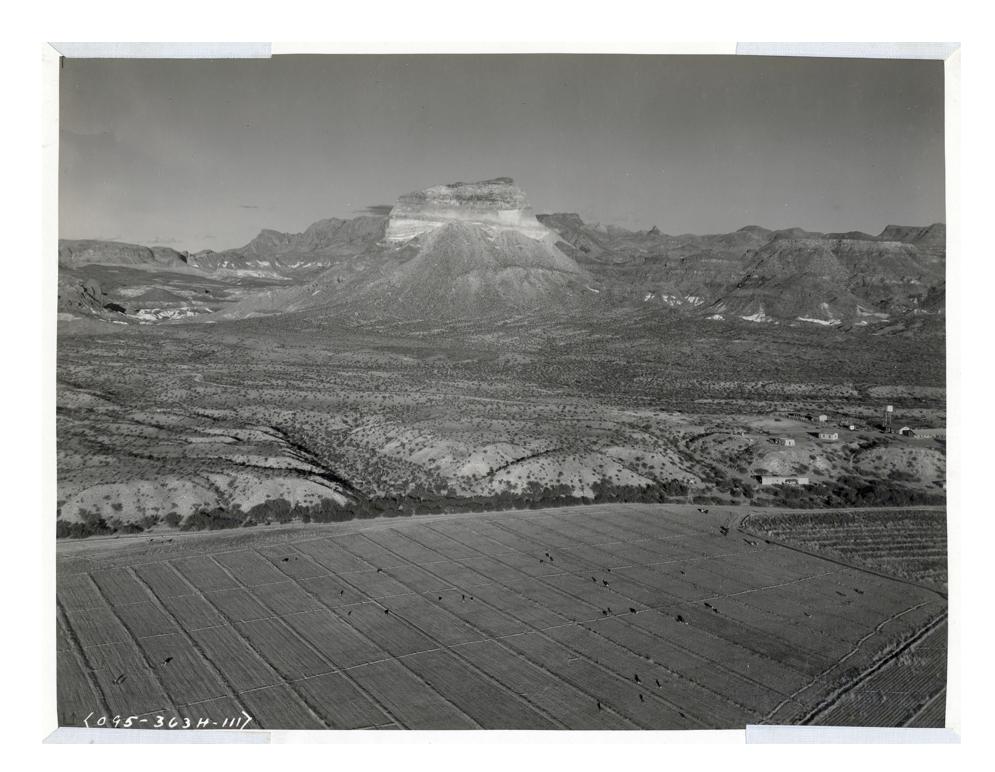
Rio Bravo winding down through center. Top left, upper walls of Santa Helena Canyon. Aguja is the lone peak in center.

Terlingua Hills to its right.

Castolon farm to right center.



Castolon Farm and Buildings old army post. Upper part,
Trap, Kit, Castillon, and
Chisos. South Rim, extreme
right. The small valley among
the white hills in upper left,
has numerous geological
phenomena. It is also the place
where a hotly pursued cow thief
killed ((and let them rot))
twenty five or thirty head of
cattle in order to escape
capture.



(095)

Santa Helena, or Castolon farm and buildings.

Castillon Peak and Chisos

Mountains in back.



Upper end of old Santa Helena or Castolon Farm, right foreground. Clyde Buttrill settled this place and erected the barn in left fore-ground. His original house and store buildings are a little farther to the left, just off the picture.

Temporal, or dry farm, center left. Emergency landing field in center and Cow Valley beyond it. Chisos Mountains and Castillon upper part.



(098)

South Rim, upper left,

followed by right by the

Picachos and distant mountains in Mexico.

Castillon, cemter right.

See road leading down creek
and irrigated farm near
right center.



(099)

Looking almost due East towards the Chisos.



(OIOO)

Junction of Santa Helena
Canyon road with Terlingua Castolon road, near left
lower corner. Mexican homes
and farms on Alamo Creek,
near lower right. South end
of Mattle Snake Mountain
left center. On sky-line
Christmas, and Rosillas.
Burro Mesa far to right.



(OIOI)

Terlingua Treek coming down
through center. Terlingua Castolon road to right and
first above it, the Rattle
Snake Mountains. Straight
above these can be seen the
Study Butte, with Maverick
Mountain to its right.
First on left horizon is
Egg, followed by Pack-Saddle,
Nine Points, under the heavy
clouds, and then Christmas
dominating the right.



(0102)

Terlingua Creek sweeping
from upper right to lower
left. Terlingua village is
somewhere in the hills
towards the upper and central part of picture.
Saw-Mill and Agua Fria, in
upper right.

JOHNSON RANCH AND LANDING (0105-363L-111)

(0105)

Brave in front. Johnson's
Ranch and landing field in
central part. Aguja Peak,
far away in upper left.
Castillon next with the
Terlingua hills back of it.
On right, Trap, Mule Ears,
and Goat.



(OIIO)

Looking South upon Johnson's Manch and landing field.

Slightly above center in left the River makes a big bend to the north, meandering around for four miles it forms Bolsa de Vaca, with less than quarter mile across its neck and twenty eight feet of fall - so 'tis said.

Sky-line mountains are in Mexico.



(OIII)

Just below right center the
Bravo sweeps around the
northern point of San Vicente
Mountain, then swings southward, eastward, and northward
as it approaches the Del
Carmen range, the ribbed
sided mountain in the distance. To the left of this
are the Dead Horse, or
Caballo Muerto Mountains, in
Texas, and on the far right,
the Fronterizas, in Mexico.



(0112)

The Picachos from near
Johnson's Ranch. Emery
Peak and the South Rim
can be seen far on the skyline.



(OII3)

Looking northeastward from near Johnson's Hanch.

Mule Ears and Goat near top left.

Chisos right back ground and north end of Picachos below and to right.



